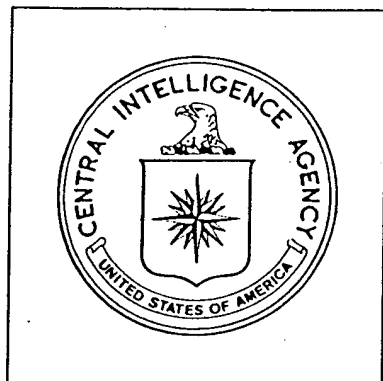


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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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Ceausescu and the Warsaw Pact

— In a speech to an army-party meeting on October 2, President Ceausescu publicly reaffirmed Romania's intent to honor military commitments under the Warsaw Treaty and bilateral friendship pacts. He nonetheless made clear that Bucharest will not alter its independent stance in Pact affairs.

The Romanians are preparing for a meeting of the Pact's Political Consultative Committee, which will be held in Bucharest for the first time in ten years. Ceausescu's remarks seem intended to allay doubts of Romania's allies about Bucharest's reliability.

Such professions of fealty are rare but not new. Ceausescu played on the same themes last June, although he was somewhat less explicit. This time, he declared that Romania would fulfill its international obligations "adequately" in the event its allies were attacked. In trying to take the sting out of his repeated calls for the rapid and simultaneous dissolution of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, Ceausescu said that, even when the military blocs dissolve, Romania "will have to" keep collaborating with the armies of the "socialist" states.

His speech, however, returned several times to the idea that the Romanian army's primary role is the defense of the homeland against any invader. Ceausescu vowed that Romania would fight only to preserve its independence and sovereignty, and warned that the whole Romanian people support the military in ensuring that their land does not fall prey to any "policy of strength."

Ceausescu also pledged to continue developing cooperation with the armed forces of "other socialist and friendly states"—implicitly Communist China, the developing countries, and the West. Bucharest frequently exchanges military delegations

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with states outside the Warsaw Pact in an effort to bolster its independent image, a practice that irritates Moscow. Defense Minister Coman recently returned from Austria, and reportedly plans to visit Mexico and Greece sometime soon. (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~)

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Bronze Bust of Suslov Unveiled

Senior party secretary and ideologist Mikhail Suslov is the latest Kremlin leader to be honored by the unveiling of a bronze bust in his birthplace. According to a Tass announcement of October 3, the ceremony was held in the village of Shakhovskoye in Ulyanovsk Oblast, RSFSR. Soviet regulations now specify that an individual who is "twice Hero"-- that is, has been awarded two "Hero of Socialist Labor" decorations, two "Hero of the Soviet Union" decorations, or one of each--is entitled to have a bust erected.

Suslov is the third senior leader whose bust has been unveiled this year. General Secretary Brezhnev (one of each "Hero") led off with a bust unveiled on May 8 in Dneprodzerzhinsk, Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, in the Ukraine. President Podgorny (twice Hero of Socialist Labor) followed last month with a bust in Karlovka, Poltava Oblast, also in the Ukraine. Presumably still to come are Premier Kosygin (twice Hero of Socialist Labor, 1964 and 1974) and party secretary Kirilenko (twice Hero of Socialist Labor, 1966 and 1976). (UNCLASSIFIED)

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